

December 23-26, 1982, page 1

The 7:05 P.M. Martz bus from NYC to Scranton: arrived at 9:30 P.M. On the bus I rested and listened to music: Gurrelieder and Petroushka. I also read Walden. It was a relief to have all the necessary Christmas preparations done. After my arrival I walked down Lackawanna Avenue and went to the Greyhound station. I learned that a Philadelphia bus would arrive at 11:05 P.M. Before going to the Greyhound station--on my way down Lackawanna Avenue, in fact--I stopped at McDonalds and took some refreshments. I then walked to the Greyhound station. When I found out that a bus would not arrive until 11:05 P.M. I walked back up Lackawanna Avenue to a Lucia's Pizza place and had a square of pizza, which was mediocre. There were two customers in the place when I arrived and they soon left and I was the only person in the place for about a half hour. It is a huge rectangular room and it felt rather nice to be in it. At 11 P.M. I went to the Greyhound station and WSP was there and in a few minutes DWP arrived. I sat in the back seat of the Eagle and DWP was in the front. I remained largely silent on the way home and DWP and WSP visited. DWP had not been in PA since Pioneer Days. We supped on spaghetti and meat balls. WSP and HLRP went to bed after midnight and I wrapped my Christmas presents as DWP watched. I wrapped them all in cloth and used cloth ribbons. They looked wonderful, and I retrieved or was given back much of the cloth and ribbons and will use same again next year and again and again. On the 24th I got up at about 9 and went to town to check on the post office box: two of the promotional-mailing CALENDARS were returned as "not deliverable"--the one to McDade at 307 Clark Avenue in Clarks Summit and the one to Mellow at 703 Penn Security Bank Building, Scranton. McDade does not live in northeastern Pennsylvania. Mellow moved to another building in Scranton. I will have to update my CHS "Some Names, Addresses and Telephone Numbers" list. On Thursday the 23rd, JVB telephoned me at the office to wish me a Merry Christmas and at that time I arranged to meet JVB at the CPL at 1 P.M. on 12/24/82. I learned from a notice in THE CARBONDALE NEWS for 12/22/1982 (which I read in the evening of 12/23/82) that the CPL would be closed on 12/24/82. At 1 P.M., DWP and I arrived at the CPL to find JVB sitting on the steps of the CPL. We three went to Newberrys to look for a zipper for DWP's winter coat. No luck. We then went to 301 so I could show DWP what had been done therein. From there we went to Viemont Mall and DWP did his Christmas shopping. I noted, with some pleasure, that the CARBONDALE CALENDARS 1983 that have been consigned to Paperback Booksmith were prominently on display and that 14 of them had been sold. We drove back to Carbondale and went to 20 Spencer Street because JVB's grandmother had made a nut bread for me for Christmas and so off to 20 Spencer we went. Mrs. Buberniak's sister was there as was her daughter and family (the family that lives on Salem Mountain: two kids, one of whom is Paul). JVB's father and younger brother arrived shortly thereafter. JVB gave DWP a bottle from his archeological dig on Dickson Hill--that was JVB's Christmas present to DWP. Mrs. Buberniak insisted that we have some pierogis (I think they are called--triangular in shape pastries, with potato and cheese filling, and fried in a pan). We each had three. There was a great deal of activity in the kitchen: fish was being fried, pierogis were being fried. Mrs. Buberniak was holding forth and it was very amusing. I kidded her and she loved it. John's father said that he will have to thank WSP for allowing them to hunt deer on the WSP property. It was a very complex but very pleasant visit. Before going to 20 Spencer Street we stopped in at Ivy Antiques to see if Olga had any new photographs for DWP. She had one or two. Connie Buberniak stuck her head in the door to wish Olga and Paul a Merry Christmas and that was a pleasant coincidence to have we three there when she did do. DWP and I took our leave from 20 Spencer Street and went to the Homestead for our Christmas Eve Dinner: RTP and family were invited.

December 23-26, 1982, page 2

Mountains of shrimp and spanish rice. I showed the entire family the Harper's pictorial history of the Civil War that I will donate to the CPL in memory of Alvin R. Squire. When JVB telephoned me on 12-23-1982, I was not at my desk and when I telephoned him back, the number he was at was his grandmother's (282-3675) and when I telephoned him back his grandmother answered and at that time she told me that she had a loaf of nut bread for me. On Friday morning, the 24th, WSP and I brought in the Christmas tree--a potted blue spruce that WSP bought and which was housed in the garage. WSP, HLRP and I installed it in the corner of the living room and I decorated it. WSP and HLRP sat in their respective chairs and had a grand time. I instituted the practice of hanging ornaments on ribbons from the chandelier/light fixture in the middle of the living room; I also hung one or two ornaments on philodendron plants and fuschia plants in the house. I had a wonderful time with these Christmas decorations at the Homestead. HLRP and WSP went to bed reasonably early on Christmas Eve and DWP marked his final exams. I watched television. Around midnight, Auntie Mame (with Rosalind Russell Peggy Cass and others) came on. Excellent. DWP and I watched the entire movie, laughing and laughing until our sides were hurting. Rosalind Russell is extremely funny. The movie is an inspiration, to say the least. Saturday morning I woke about 10 A.M. and Mom was playing Christmas carols and that was very nice. At about noon, WSP, HLRP, DWP and I exchanged presents in the living room: it was very nice. Someone called from Brookvalley to ask when we were going to arrive so that presents could be opened there. We four (WSP, HLRP, DWP and I) were ready and on our way to Brookvalley in ten minutes. John and Marion were there and we had a roomfull of people and a roomfull of presents and it was exactly what it should be--an old-fashioned Christmas morning. Laura, April and William were in the middle of the room and were surrounded by presents and were having a wonderful time. The adults all watched and had a wonderful time. WSP was having a wonderful time, in particular. DWP took pictures. Dinner was grand--the center of attraction was a 31-pound (dressed) turkey that RTP raised. We returned to the Homestead about 7 P.M. and not long after that we went for a ride in the new car to look at Christmas lights. That lasted about two hours (DWP kept an accurate account of where we drove): total miles driven--60. DWP marked papers all weekend long--final exams. He received a couple of phone calls. He drove me to the bus on Sunday evening at about 8 and at the bus station he telephoned someone and after the call he said that there was a young woman in his life at the moment who is very much like Sylvia Stephens. Sunday morning I got up at about 10:30 and roast pork was cooking. Delicious. I flew a kite in the warm spring-like winds in the hour or so before mid-day dinner. The original plan was to do something with JVB at 1 P.M. but at 1 P.M. I was not ready to leave. JVB called before 1. I told him that I would call him back, which I did. I called Kurt Reed to find him not at home. I talked with his mother. After dinner I telephoned JVB and told him that DWP and I would pick him up and do something. Sue Stephens called and said that the Baptist Church had been scheduled for the meeting of the CHS on the 6th of January and that she would try and get McDade and Mellow and Wargo and Serafini for the meeting. Excellent. She is doing a wonderful job as publicity chairman for the CHS. She is courageous and is willing to do things on her own. It takes a lot of the work off my shoulders. Howard Yepson telephoned before I got and I called him back after Dinner. He wondered if the CRCCH 3rd-class bulk rate permit for 1983 had to be paid immediately. I explained that it did not. JVB, DWP and I went up to Rogers Street (high up on the hill, off of Lincoln Avenue) and DWP took 11 photo-